

Patriotic Front leaders meet

MAPUTO, Jan. 16 (AFP). — Crucial talks between the Rhodesian Patriotic Front (PF) co-leaders, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, started here today, following a renewed invitation by British Foreign Secretary David Owen to a meeting with the two front leaders. Consultations between the two exiled guerrilla leaders were to concentrate on whether to accept Dr. Owen's invitation, PF officials said. But, observers held that Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe would also review the Rhodesian situation in the light of apparent progress made by the "internal" settlement talks between Rhodesian white minority Prime Minister Ian Smith and PF's rival nationalist leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Senator Jeremiah Chirau.

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AMMAN, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1978 — SAFAR 8, 1398

Rash of bombings worries Spain

MADRID, Jan. 16 (R). — The Spanish cabinet met today to speed up constitutional reforms after a rash of bombings underlying extremist threats to the country's young democracy. Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez called the special meeting to discuss strategy at a forthcoming parliamentary debate on the new constitution. In Barcelona, four people were feared to have died in a fire-bomb attack which gutted Spain's biggest nightclub yesterday. Petrol bombs were also thrown at two police jeeps, a bank, a police station, a finance ministry branch and a municipal statistics office in Barcelona last night during anti-government demonstrations. In Madrid, a bomb blast ripped the tracks of the underground train system.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

King supports Sadat's firm stand

His Majesty King Hussein yesterday telephoned President Anwar Sadat to express his support to the Egyptian president's "firm stand in the face of Israeli attempts to foil peace efforts and to disrupt the moves aiming at achieving comprehensive settlement based on the principles of light and justice." The King emphasised to President Sadat the appreciation of the Arab nation for his adherence to his declared position ever since he launched his peace initiative which calls for a comprehensive settlement consistent with legitimate Arab rights and interests and with the requirements of a just peace.

Somali President arrives today

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre arrives here Tuesday on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Prince Hassan to visit U.S.

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (R). — Crown Prince Hassan will pay a working visit to the United States for economic talks with officials there next week, the Royal Hashemite Court announced today.

Hijaz Railway scheme tenders expected within coming weeks

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 16. — The latest effort to seriously consider building the entire Hijaz Railway in standard-gauge track from Damascus to Medina will enter the technical studies stage later this month. The six-man technical committee established by a meeting of Jordanian, Syrian and Saudi Arabian transport and communications ministers here last October now plans to meet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Jan. 23, to issue calls for international consultants to study the scheme. According to senior Jordanian sources involved directly with the project, the meeting in Riyadh will be followed immediately by public tenders calling for consultancy services to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of rebuilding the 1,302-km-long Hijaz Railway in standard-gauge track. The railway was originally built some 65 years ago in a narrow-gauge configuration, and the section of the line that has been maintained and rebuilt — between Damascus and the Jordanian border, with a new offshoot from Ma'an to Aqaba — has been in the same narrow-gauge track. It is now estimated that rebuilding the entire line in standard-gauge track would cost over \$1 billion.

News Report

Callaghan: Israel faces hard decision

EDINBURGH, Jan. 16 (R). — British Prime Minister James Callaghan today said Israel would have to make very hard decisions to come to a settlement with Egypt. Reporting to parliament on a trip with President Anwar Sadat last week, Mr. Callaghan said that the more important for Israel to have a universally acceptable peace treaty than to retain some areas of territory. Middle East states were passing through a very sticky phase he cautioned. President Carter's intervention last week had helped the situation, he said but "there are very hard decisions for Israel to make." The prime minister said both sides were taking up a stalling position. To reach an agreement Israel and Egypt had to move from their positions. Peace in the Middle East was still a possibility and none of the parties should let the opportunity slip, Mr. Callaghan added.

Boumedienne is back in Algiers

ALGER, Jan. 16 (R). — Algeria's President Houari Boumedienne returned home from a 14-day tour of 11 Middle East countries, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. He had been seeking support for his country and other Arab states which oppose President Sadat's peace initiative with Israel. President Boumedienne made no statement on his arrival home. President Boumedienne talks with Yugoslavia's President Tito on Sunday. The same he flew on to Tunisia on the last leg of his tour, where he talks with President Habib Bourguiba. He was rounding up his trip to Tunis today.

N. Yemen canvasses for Arab summit

SANAA, Jan. 16 (R). — North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdullah Ismail left here for Riyadh today to begin a tour which will take him to Jordan, Syria and Egypt. He told Reuters before he left that he and his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Saud bin Abdulaziz, would discuss the general Arab situation against the ground of a revived North Yemeni proposal to convene an Arab summit conference.

Kuwait explains its position to USSR

VALENTIA, Jan. 16 (R). — Kuwait told the Soviet Union today that it was still committed to seek the restoration of Arab solidarity, and by Egypt's Middle East peace policies. Foreign Minister Nasser bin Sabah Al Sabah said he had told the Soviet ambassador, Nikolai Shtachov that Kuwait "was strictly adhering to Arab summit resolutions." This assertion was in response to a Soviet inquiry about Kuwait's stand on the current developments in the Middle East, including the Egyptian-Israeli talks, Mr. Sabah reported. He said he understood from the ambassador that the Soviet Union was anxious to have solidarity restored between Arab countries.



Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel (left) talks to reporters after arriving in Israel Sunday to head Egypt's team at the political committee's discussions in Jerusalem. Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali is in the middle and Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on the far right. (AP wirephoto)

Dayan: Israel will not negotiate with a pistol against its head

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (R). — Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan warned today that Egypt could not put a pistol to Israel's head in the Middle East peace talks due to start here tomorrow. He said Israel was satisfied with the terms of the talks agenda, hammered out in a dispute which at one time yesterday appeared to put the whole meeting in jeopardy. Talking to Israeli diplomatic correspondents Mr. Dayan said that for all Israel's desire for peace it could not give everything Egypt wanted if this meant endangering Israel's security. Mr. Dayan praised the Egyptian peace initiative that began with President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November but he added: "Better that this initiative should slip through our fingers than that Israel's security and existence should be jeopardised." Mr. Dayan said he was satisfied with the agenda worked out by Israel and Egypt for the joint political talks opening here tomorrow.

The agenda

According to the Israeli diplomatic correspondents who talked to Mr. Dayan, the agenda will include: 1) a declaration of principles to serve as a basis for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. 2) directives concerning the problems of the West Bank and Gaza. The correspondents said there were two versions of this point: the Israeli one referring to "Judea-Samaria and the territory of Gaza" and the Egyptian one mentioning the "West Bank of the Jordan and territory of Gaza".

Sporadic shelling in south Lebanon breaches 4-month-old ceasefire

BEIRUT, Jan. 16 (Agencies). — Rival factions traded artillery fire in southeast Lebanon early today, the third breach of the ceasefire in 48 hours, correspondents said. Reports said sporadic shelling interspersed with automatic weapons fire which Saturday broke the almost four-month-old calm in south Lebanon, resumed late yesterday afternoon and continued until dawn. The clash pitted rightwing Christians based in Marjayoun and Qleia against Palestinians and their Lebanese leftist allies in Khiam, Taybe and Ibi Al Saqi, close to the border with Israel. The correspondents quoted some reports as saying Israeli artillery had backed up the rightists, but there was no reliable confirmation. A ceasefire had been in force in south Lebanon since Sept. 26, shortly after Israel pulled back across the border. It was holding well until the fighting was renewed this weekend.

Explosion in northern town

In another development, at least one person was killed and a number of others were wounded today in an explosion at a secondary school in the northern coastal town of Batroun, 54 km. north of here, police sources said here. No other details were immediately available. The rightwing Phalangist Radio said two people were killed in the blast as studies were about to resume at the school. It added that the town, mostly inhabited by Christians, went on a protest strike and demanded an end to "subversion".

Butros in Damascus

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros today conferred with Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, Syrian Foreign Minister, immediately after arriving here for a one-day visit. Syrian official sources said they reviewed latest Middle East developments and Lebanese affairs.

Prince Saud: Peace prospects are gloomy

TEHRAN, Jan. 16 (Agencies). — Saudi Arabian Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said here yesterday he found prospects for peace in the Middle East very gloomy, according to the official Pars news agency (Pana). Asked what he thought of the hopes for peace following President Anwar Sadat's initiative, the Saudi minister told Pana: "The outlook is very gloomy because of Israel's response to the peace initiative." Prince Faisal flew to Tehran with a message from King Khalid which he delivered to the Shah of Iran at a meeting at the Naivaran Palace. He returned home later in the day. The meeting followed five days of consultations in Riyadh between the Shah and King Prince Faisal also announced that Saudi Arabia would go to Somalia's aid if a foreign power, which he did not identify, violated its frontiers. (On Jan. 1 the Shah expressed an identical position, warning Ethiopia that Iran would react if it crossed Somalia's frontiers).

Ecevit government almost assured of confidence vote

ANKARA, Jan. 16 (AFP). — The new moderate leftwing government of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit seems assured of winning a parliamentary vote of confidence tomorrow. Despite rumours of 11th hour defections and resignations, the arithmetic looks good this time for approval of Mr. Ecevit's cabinet.

Bonn denies plan to finance Palestinian resettlement

BONN, Jan. 16 (R). — West Germany yesterday denied a Kuwaiti newspaper report that it had offered to finance a project under which Palestinian refugees would be settled in Jordan and Lebanon. "The report stems from the realms of fantasy," a foreign ministry spokesman commented. The newspaper Al Anba' said today the West German plan involved the dissolution of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) and a three-year programme for developing the Jordanian and Lebanese economies to ease the absorption of the refugees. Observers here noted that the reported project for settling Palestinians in Jordan and Lebanon contradicted official West German policy of support for the creation of a Palestinian homeland. Officials recalled that Chancellor Helmut Schmidt last month promised Middle East countries increased aid from the nine-nation European Economic Community to help rebuild the region following a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Vance lands in Israel armed with proposals and determination

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 16 (R). — The foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States gathered here tonight for Middle East peace talks in an atmosphere clouded by a last-minute dispute. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance flew to Jerusalem a day late and went straight into talks with Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to prepare for tomorrow's opening conference session.

Just as Mr. Vance was arriving Mr. Begin's office put out a statement challenging an Egyptian spokesman's remarks that Israel had promised President Anwar Sadat to give up the disputed Jewish settlements in the Sinai desert. "This is fiction, to put it mildly," the Israeli statement said. On the contrary, it added, Mr. Begin had explained to President Anwar Sadat in Ismailia last month that Israel in principle was opposed to leaving any Jewish settlement without Israeli protection. Earlier in the day Mr. Dayan said Israel was satisfied with the three-point agenda that emerged after an intensive Israeli-Egyptian argument at the weekend. That dispute was settled only when Mr. Vance declined to fly here until an agenda was agreed. The talks, set up at the Ismailia summit in the format of a political committee, are expected to last several weeks. All parties have cautioned against expecting early results. Mr. Vance expects to hand over to an assistant after the weekend.

The Egyptian spokesman in Jerusalem, Mursi Saad Eddin, appealed tonight for an end to exchanges of hostile statements "at this delicate time." Pledging to play an active role in the peace negotiations, Mr. Vance said on arrival: "President Carter asked me to join the opening of the talks to demonstrate our commitment to peace. The United States will participate actively in the work of the political committee." Mr. Vance arrived here carrying U.S. compromise proposals and a determination to press them if the momentum of the talks bogs down, a senior official aboard his plane said. He plans to stay here for the first three days of the talks, then stop in Cairo on his way back to Washington. Mr. Vance arrived 24 hours later than planned after postponing his departure because Israel and Egypt were unable to agree on the agenda for the talks. The senior U.S. official credited his postponement decision with "helping galvanise" the two countries into settling the agenda question. After tomorrow's opening statements, the Jerusalem talks will proceed in closed session over a period of some weeks, reporters accompanying Mr. Vance were told. Mr. Vance hopes that by the time he leaves here on Friday the two parties will be seriously discussing questions of basic principles for a comprehensive peace accord and guidelines for resolving the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. But he does not expect anything tangible to emerge during his own stay here, the senior U.S. official said.

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Israel is making peace process difficult, Mamdouh Salem says

CAIRO, Jan. 16 (R). — Egypt adopted a tough bargaining position as President Sadat's peace initiative entered what was seen in Cairo today as a crucial phase. Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem spoke this morning of "attempts by the Israeli leadership to make the peace process difficult." In the newspaper Al Akhbar, a banner headline declared: "Talks face difficult hours." Mr. Salem, however, emphasised that Egypt wished to press ahead with negotiation. He told an audience of women here that he trusted in "the Israeli people's enthusiasm to achieve their security and peace."

Indications from other officials and in the authoritative Cairo press were that the Egyptians would nonetheless prove tough negotiators in Jerusalem. Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel flew to Israel yesterday and in an arrival statement at Ben Guiron airport warned his hosts: "There can be no peace with the continued occupation of land. There can be no peace without deciding the national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which the right for self-determination."

Last minute hitch

President Anwar Sadat earlier held back Mr. Kamel's departure until U.S. mediation resolved a dispute with Israel over the agenda for the talks, which group the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States in a so-called "political committee." After Mr. Kamel arrived in Jerusalem it was announced the formal talks would be put back 24 hours until tomorrow. The agenda dispute, which forced U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to postpone by a day his departure for the talks, came at the end of a week in which Israeli-Egyptian relations deteriorated sharply. President Anwar Sadat announced today that he was cancelling all appointments for the next 10 days in order to study aspects of the Middle East crisis.

Sadat said to have submitted resignation

An East Jerusalem Arab daily reported today that President Sadat handed in a resignation yesterday, but was forced to change his mind by the Egyptian National Security Council. The newspaper Al Shaab, quoting what it called "more than authoritative" sources in Egypt said the National Security Council plus unprecedented U.S. pressure prevailed on Mr. Sadat to stay in office. It said he had attempted to resign after a deepening sense of failure of his peace initiative spread over Egypt at the weekend. The paper said constant contacts were maintained between Vice President Husni Mubarak and the U.S. embassy in Cairo to avoid any dangerous developments yesterday.

MENA says Vance is due in Amman

CAIRO, Jan. 16 (R). — The official Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Amman today that United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is expected to visit Jordan following his visits to both Jerusalem and Cairo. The agency gave no source for its report. Mr. Vance is due in Jerusalem today to take part in Egyptian-Israeli political talks there and is expected to pay a short visit to Egypt next Friday.

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A breath of fresh air

The very dramatic move by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to postpone his trip to Jerusalem this weekend should be studied closely by the Americans, because we think it contains the seeds of their own diplomatic maturity and acumen. It has been the consensus of nearly everybody involved in the Middle East situation that, at some point, the Americans are going to have to use a bit of political muscle to bring the Israelis into a more conciliatory negotiating position, particularly on the core issues of territorial withdrawal and the right of Palestinian self-determination. We suggest to the Americans that they mull over the incidents of this past weekend, and that they study the dynamics of the various forces that were at work. The three main forces, we think, were Mr. Vance's calculated hesitation, President Carter's admonitions about the gravity of a breakdown in the Egyptian-Israeli talks, and Egyptian President Sadat's well timed verbal ranting and raving about the Israelis' intransigence. Taken together, the three forces served to bring on an emergency Israeli cabinet meeting, during which the Israelis agreed on the contested agenda item for the political talks that were scheduled to take place in Jerusalem on Monday.

It is rather interesting to note how, when the heat was on, the Israelis scrambled around a bit and came out with what can be reasonably called a more conciliatory posture. It is timely, and instructive, also to remember how on a previous occasion the Americans snapped their very substantial fingers and effected a very speedy Israeli action. We refer to the swift Israeli military pullout from southern Lebanon in September.

Whether one calls it political muscle or pressure or whatever, the fact has been proven again that the special relationship between the United States and Israel also includes a special kind of American leverage that can be exercised in the service of moderate and reasonable aims. When the United States carries its full weight in this manner, it's like a breath of fresh air, of which, the more the merrier, particularly in the service of moderate and reasonable goals.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, on Monday, said in demanding control over occupied territories as "security measures" Israel has shown its true expansionist intentions. For when President Anwar Sadat extended his hand in peace and offered Israel the security of a peace agreement Israel pretends that its security can only be guaranteed in the occupation of Arab lands. His Majesty King Hussein was reading the future when, ten years ago at the United Nations, he said that Israel must choose between peace and land because it cannot have both. Peace is security why, then, is Israel demanding control over Arab lands? -- unless it does not care much for peace or for security but for the occupation of the whole of Palestine and other Arab lands as well.

AL DUSTOUR said the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee will hold its meetings in Israel despite the "crisis" which erupted suddenly over the weekend. The committee will convene because the crisis is a tactical confrontation and not a strategic one. But President Sadat is anxious that the committee produce something tangible to justify his dramatic peace initiative to the Arab states otherwise he will be the last Arab head of state to talk of peace.

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New Polytechnic Institute in Amman sets a first in Mideast technical training

By Ian Kellas
Photos by Yousef Allan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 16 — The first of its kind in the Middle East, it seems that Jordan's new Polytechnic Institute at Marka can hardly fail to be a success. It has had, to be sure, its teething problems. Students were first taken on in September 1975 when there was no electricity, no running water and not even blackboards on the site.

But the college which His Majesty King Hussein opened on Sunday now boasts over 700 students all told, over 200 successful graduates and some of the best equipment to be found anywhere in the world at this level of education.

As reported in Sunday's paper, Dr. Suheimat, the Director of the Polytechnic has announced plans for four major new projects which will shortly be undertaken at Marka. These include an inter-Arab institution to provide training in computer and telecommunications technology, which will serve the whole of the Middle East and be financed by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund; an audio-visual aids centre; a unit for manufacturing science equipment for Jordan's schools; and general expansion of existing facilities so that the student intake can be doubled.

Students from the polytechnic are being snapped up for jobs even before they graduate and there are up to 15 applicants for every place available. Its success seems assured because of the enormous demand in Jordan and the Middle East for the middle range of technicians.

There are plenty of engineers, plenty of craftsmen and labourers but critically few site supervisors and senior technicians in the area.

The poly takes Tawjihi graduates (at the age of about 18) and in 6 semesters of 15 weeks each, run over two or maybe three years, trains them in one of four engineering specialisms: mechanical, electrical, civil or chemical. Architecture and lab. Technician work is also on offer. Technical teacher-training will now be run as a supplementary course.

There are at present about

500 polytechnic students, half of whom come from outside Amman and are accommodated on the campus. In addition to this there is a Trades Training Centre which takes 200 16-18 year-olds and shares the polytechnic's workshop facilities. This scheme, however, will probably be phased out in favour of more part-time training for people already in industry. Even now there are evening classes for electricians.

The polytechnic issues diplomas rather than degrees because a large part of the course is practical. The average electrical engineering student, for example, spends 17 hours a week in the lab. As well as the labs (and there are five for the civil engineering department alone) there are workshops where the work is even less theoretical. There for example cars are taken to bits, and metal welded and lathed.

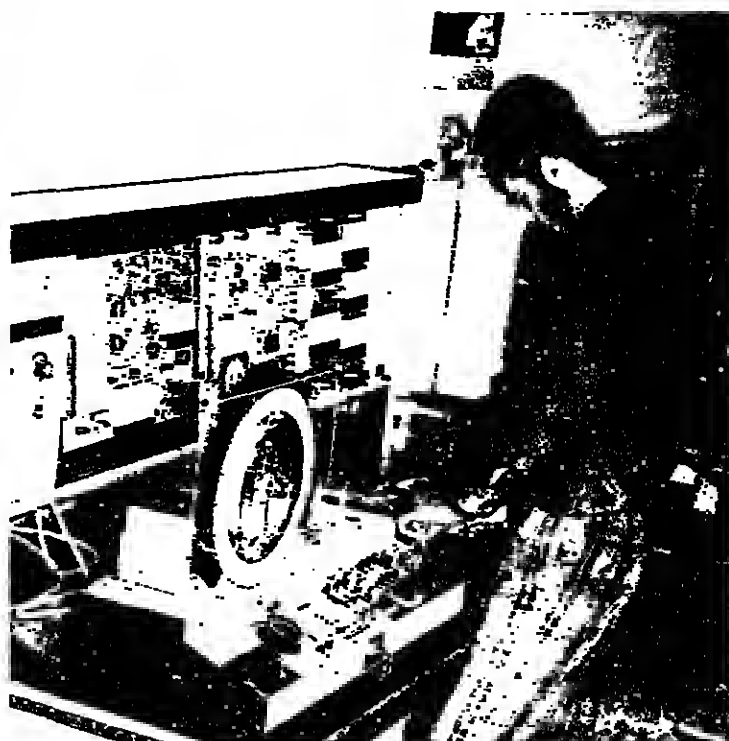
The polytechnic as part of the Jordan First Education Project was given a share along with four other education projects of the World Bank's grant of about \$9 million.

Additional costs -- and a total of JD 3 million has probably now been spent on the poly, excluding the cost of the land -- have been borne by the government. But there has also been help to the tune of \$1.5 million from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and from the British government in the form of technical assistance, worth upwards of £250,000.

The ILO has an expert advising the Trades Training Centre and the British now have three Technical Cooperation Officers (TCOs) who have been giving advice on the ordering and installation of equipment and the design of curricula. One British TCO is preparing tailor-made courses to teach English for special purposes.

The language is one obvious problem in development. Some of the students are noticeably weak in English and while Arabic is officially encouraged as the medium of instruction, teachers necessarily remain dependent on technical English. Intensive as well as regular courses are therefore run to raise the students' standards in English.

Staffing the college has posed something of a problem.



An experiment being set up in one of the electrical engineering laboratories.

The poly has been able to arrange special contracts which allows them to pay more than the low government wages for teachers but it is still not easy to lure qualified engineers away from well-paid jobs in industry. Very few have much experience in teaching.

Dr. Suheimat feels however that the necessary staff can be recruited. At present he has a team of no less than 34 engineers, 12 lecturers, 50 technicians and 60 people in service jobs. Apart from foreign advisers there are only a couple of teachers from outside Jordan. The director does not see staff problems acting as a ceiling on later developments.

Marka has been developing links with Bristol Polytechnic in the U.K. Bristol staff have been sent out by the U.K. Overseas Development Ministry on lightning visits to do specific jobs. This is cheaper for Britain than having a full-time TCO and it also provides welcome galvanisation for the whole project. Marka staff have also been sent to Bristol for training.

The British are also closely involved with Jordan's second polytechnic, to be sited at Irbid (it will open, inshallah, in 1980). A team of experts has been drawing up detailed plans in cooperation with the architects in hope that development there will be better coordinated than it was in the early stages at Marka.

The Irbid polytechnic will deal with more specialised areas of engineering than the one at Marka. There will for instance be courses in textiles, mineral extraction, and food.

Dr. Suheimat points out that Marka Polytechnic's facilities could permit it, in the future,

to raise the teaching to degree standard. But he feels that it is much more important to concentrate on strengthening the links between the college and industry.

He hopes that advisory councils will be set up to cover every sector taught at the poly and he wants to expand the present service to part-time students.

The government provides complete grants for the students at the poly though on the understanding that they are then bound to the Ministry of Education for four years after graduation. In fact about half are released to private industry -- such is the need for them. Obviously it is hoped that at the private sector will in return bear a greater part of the responsibility for financing the college.

Looking around the neat, low-lying campus, sited in an industrial zone beyond the airport, it was difficult to believe that any work was done there at all. It was all so immaculately tidy -- in preparation for His Majesty's visit. But even more impressive was the equipment.

"It is", one of the British TCOs confessed frankly, "better equipped than any English poly would be" -- better than the university here. He said they had been given "almost a blank cheque" when making the orders.

That Jordan should become the technological training centre for the Middle East is not a new concept, but the developments at Marka and even more the multiple projects that are planned for the near future seem likely to ensure that this will happen sooner than most people perhaps realise.

Jordan-EEC cooperation agreement signed here

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — A memorandum of co-operation between Jordan and the European Economic Community (EEC) was signed at the National Planning Council here this evening. The memo specifies Jordanian projects which the EEC will help finance. They include the industrial zone in Amman, Irbid water supply from the Yarmouk River, Hasa-Menzil railway line, and loans for the Industrial Development Bank.

The memo also includes provisions for technical assistance and easy-term loans provided by the EEC in the fields of vocational training for the ministry of Education, Vocational Training Institute, the Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan, the Royal Scientific Society, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation along with a number of studies related to Jordanian development projects.

The accord, to be put into effect this year, was signed for Jordan by the President of the National Planning Council Dr. Hanna Odeh, and for the EEC by the Head of the South Mediterranean Section, Mr. Hans Andresen and representatives of the European Investment Bank. The three-day discussions were concluded today.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddin Dajani today discussed with members of the E.E.C. delegation the support which the member states of the Community will give Jordan.



The Jordanian and the EEC teams meet in the opening session of the three day talks at the National Planning Council in Amman on Saturday. (JNA photo)

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As U.S. energy secretary departs

Saudi Arabia says it would only accept oil payments in dollars

YADH, Jan. 16 (AFP). — American Energy Secretary James Schlesinger left here for an undisclosed destination yesterday after a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia and talks on energy problems. Following a meeting with Saudi Prince Fahd, Mr. Schlesinger told the Saudi News Agency that the two sides had differed on some questions but were in complete agreement on others. He gave no details of the issues involved.

Mr. Schlesinger expressed satisfaction at Saudi-American relations and at Saudi Arabia's role in maintaining a balance in the international economic system. He underscored the Saudi attitude toward the recent oil price increases.

But Sheikh Mohammad was quoted as saying that this was a completely different question to the currency in which the payments were actually made.

Arabia has no intention of receiving payment for its oil exports in any currency other than the U.S. dollar," he said. "I think the dollar will gradually regain its power and its stability," he added.

Carter is expected to stress energy problem

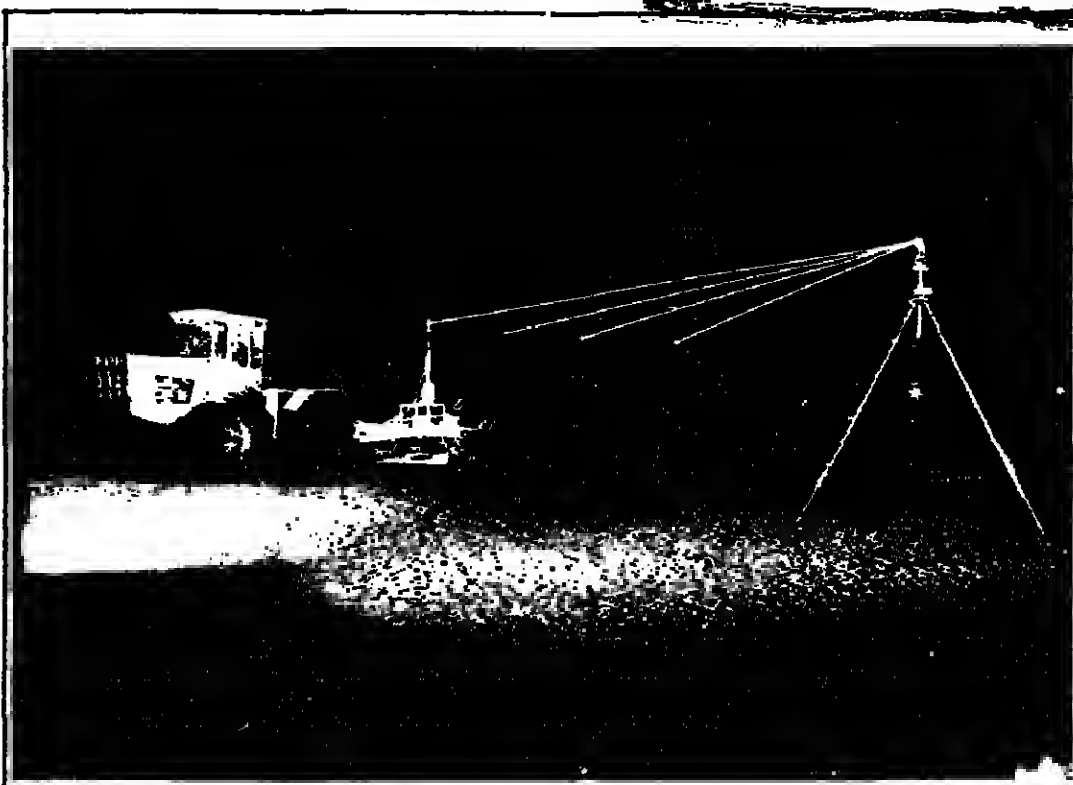
WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (AFP). — President Carter is likely to stress that energy is the nation's number one problem at present, when he delivers his

economic State of the Union message on Wednesday. Inflation, tax reform and the budget will also be prominent among topics covered.

The presidential programme for damping down inflation was the subject of a White House working meeting on Friday, but it seems to have got a tepid reception from business leaders.

The programme excludes controls but allows for increased cooperation between the government, the business community and unions with the aim of preventing a rate exceeding six per cent. This figure is one of the lowest in the Western World.

Mr. Carter intends to grant tax concessions of \$25 billion for private persons and companies. Generally, the Treasury Department expects a good expansion rate for the economy in the first half of this year, and the tax cuts will be used to prevent a slow-down in the second half.



To allow greater precision in applying the exact amount of irrigation water needed -- even only and quickly -- is the function of laser-guided earthmovers which "dead-level" fields at the U.S. Water Conservation Laboratory, Phoenix, Arizona. The four exposures on this photo catch light beamed to a tractor-pulled scraper. The receiver intercepts the laser and holds the position of the scraper blades at the finished field elevation. (IPS photo)

No agreement is reached on action to halt contamination of Mediterranean

factories and sewage plants which foul the sea. This was estimated to be \$5 billion over a 10 to 20 year period.

The other was the fear of developing countries in the southern Mediterranean that they were being forced to accept restrictions which could delay their economic development.

A report adopted by the Mediterranean countries -- Albania was the only absentee --

French premier to visit China to boost trade ties

PEKING, Jan. 16 (AFP). — French Premier Raymond Barre will visit China Jan. 19-24 in a bid to strengthen links between France and China, and especially boost trade between the two countries which up to now has been disappointing.

His visit will be the second most important to be made by a French leader since the visit here of President Georges Pompidou in September, 1973, and the second most important one since France and China established diplomatic relations in January 1964.

Mr. Barre will also be the first western government head to visit China since 1976 which saw the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the disgrace of the "gang of four", the return to power of Teng Hsiao-ping and a new open foreign policy.

Ever since Gen. De Gaulle decided to establish diplomatic relations with China 14 years ago, they have always been excellent except for a short time during 1967, at the height of the Cultural Revolution here.

Spain, Iraq discuss trade expansion

MADRID, Jan. 16 (R). — Commerce Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diaz flew to Baghdad yesterday for talks on expanding trade between Spain and Iraq.

He told reporters the results of Spain's efforts to reduce its balance of payments deficit were surpassing expectations.

The deficit had dropped from \$4.3 billion in 1976 to less than \$3 billion in 1977, he said.

UAE offers Japan oil for technology during Sonoda visit

ABU DHABI, Jan. 16 (R). — Japanese Foreign Minister Sonoda began talks here today with United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials apparently aimed at securing stable oil supplies for his country.

Mr. Sonoda, who arrived here last night on the second stop of his Middle East tour, conferred with the UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah Al Suwaidi on ways of developing bilateral cooperation, officials said.

He also met Sheikh Tahnoun bin Mohammad, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil

Company and paid a courtesy call on Abu Dhabi's heir apparent Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed.

Mr. Sonoda was due to hold a press conference in the afternoon and later leave for the Emirate of Dubai.

The official Emirates News Agency later reported Mr. Sonoda had conveyed a message from Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on bilateral relations to Sheikh Khalifah.

The heir apparent said the UAE was looking for wider cooperation with Japan and was interested in acquiring modern technology to promote its development. He said, the UAE was offering oil as payment.

The talks between the Japanese and UAE foreign ministers also covered the Middle East situation on which they reached identical views, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said without elaboration.

The discussions further dealt with Japan's candidature for membership of the United Nations Security Council.

"The UAE promised to support this attempt in the framework of coordination with other Arab League member states," the spokesman said.

Two ships aground halt Suez traffic

PORT SAID, Egypt, Jan. 16 (R). — Shipping traffic in the Suez Canal was delayed for more than seven hours yesterday after two ships ran aground, Canal Authority officials said here.

The British tanker Gardania carrying 30,000 tons of liquid natural gas on its way from Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia to Izmir in Turkey went aground north of Suez City yesterday morning, but was refloated two hours later.

A second ship, the 58,716-ton Nedlloyd Delft, a Dutch ship carrying 22,000 tons general cargo went aground in the afternoon also north of Suez.

It was on its way from Singapore to France and was still aground more than seven hours later, delaying the transit of the north-bound convoy.

Marcos calls for probe into contract awarded to U.S. Westinghouse

MANILA, Jan. 16 (R). — President Ferdinand Marcos

has ordered a government probe into all aspects of how the U.S. Westinghouse Electric Company was awarded a \$1.1 billion contract to build a nuclear power plant in the Philippines, palace sources said today. The presidential order follows a New York Times report that the American corporation made payments to a close friend and relative of the president, Mr. Herminio Disini.

Mr. Disini, whose wife is a cousin of Mrs. Imelda Marcos, today denied any impropriety

and said he welcomed any investigation.

New York Times correspondent Fox Butterfield said in an article from Manila last week that President Marcos told him he was directing that studies be made on how to divest Mr. Disini of several businesses he is alleged to have developed with government contracts since martial law was imposed more than five years ago.

Palace sources said the president made it clear that the choice of Westinghouse over General Electric was not his decision, but that of the National Power Corporation (NPC) on the recommendation of a technical group that included foreign experts.

China's foreign trade grows 12%.

HONG KONG, Jan. 16 (R). — China's trade with the rest of the world grew by 12 per cent last year, the New China News Agency reported today.

The agency said the total volume of trade last year hit an all-time high with a "favourable balance". But it did not give any figures.

"It said exports included crude oil, coal, textiles, silk and bicycles, while the country imported chemicals, plastics, television sets and equipment and know-how for its modernisation programmes.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils
U.S. dollar	Byring/Selling 313.00/315.00
U.K. sterling	607.00/611.00
W. German mark	148.50/149.40
Swiss franc	159.70/160.60
French franc	66.90/67.30
Italian lire (for every 100)	35.70/35.90
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.00/130.80
Dutch guilder	138.90/139.70
Belgian franc (for every ten)	95.60/96.20
Swedish crown	67.20/67.60

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For pre-qualification of Specialised Contracting Firms

The Amman Water & Sewerage Authority (AWSA) invites submission of pre-qualification data by specialised contracting firms which can qualify, through experience with projects of similar type and magnitude, for the construction of certain civil works and supply of and installation of equipment in connection with a project for the transmission of water from King Talal Dam to Amman, Jordan for the AWSA. Pre-qualification data is invited from U.S. contractors, Jordanian contractors and contractors from countries eligible under AID Geographic Code 941 or joint ventures of such firms who can qualify through experience with projects of similar nature and type.

The works included in this invitation consist of the following items:

- 1— Construction of pretreatment and treatment plants with supply installation and testing of equipment.
- 2— Construction of pumping stations, with supply installation and testing of equipment.
- 3— Construction of reservoirs, housing and access roads, electrical and communication systems.
- 4— Operation and maintenance of supply system from intake at King Talal Dam to terminal reservoirs in Amman for a period of one year.

Estimated construction time 20 months.

The project components described above will be jointly financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the government of Jordan.

The contractor or contractors to whom the contract may be awarded will be paid in U.S. dollars and Jordanian Dinars. In submitting pre-qualification data, AID pre-qualification questionnaire for construction contractors (2A, CH2, HB11, TM11: 1) must be filled out completely and submitted with any brochures and additional information on experience and resources. In the event a joint venture seeks pre-qualification, the questionnaire must be supplied with respect to all firms in the joint venture. These forms are available from the AWSA in Amman and at AID in Washington. Completed pre-qualification data must be submitted to:

The General Manager
Amman Water & Sewerage
Authority
P. O. Box — 2412
Amman — Jordan

with copy to:

Agency for International Development
NE / CD Department of State
Washington D. C. 20523
Att: Mr. Robert Fedel

Envelope must be clearly marked as follows:

TENDER 1

Pre-qualification King Talal/Amman Water Supply.

— Pre-qualification data must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon of March 15, 1978. AWSA will consider data postmarked no later than March 1, 1978. A short list of qualified contractors will be prepared by the AWSA, and all contractors will be advised by May 1, 1978 whether and when they will be invited to submit bids.

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For pre-qualification of Specialised Contracting Firms

The Amman Water & Sewerage Authority (AWSA) invites submission of pre-qualification data by specialised contracting firms which can qualify, through experience with projects of similar type and magnitude, for the construction of certain civil works and supply and installation of pipelines and other equipment in connection with a project for the transmission of water from King Talal Dam to Amman-Jordan for AWSA.

Pre-qualification data is invited from contractors from countries eligible under Saudi Fund for Development or joint ventures of such firms who can qualify through experience with projects of similar nature and type. The works included in this invitation consist of the following items:

- 1— Construction of water intake, with supply installation and testing of equipment.
- 2— Construction of approximately 25 kms. of 800 mm steel pipe with supply and testing. Estimated construction time is 18 months.

The project components described above will be jointly financed by the Saudi Fund for Development and the government of Jordan. The contractor to whom the contract may be awarded will be paid in the FX currency of the contractor and in Jordan Dinars. In submitting pre-qualification data, AWSA pre-qualification questionnaire for construction contractors must be filled out completely and submitted with any brochures and additional information on experience and resources. In the event of joint venture seeks pre-qualification, the questionnaire must be supplied with respect to all firms in the joint venture. These forms are available from the AWSA in Amman.

Completed pre-qualification data must be submitted to:
The General Manager
Amman Water & Sewerage
Authority
P. O. Box — 2412
Amman — Jordan

Envelopes must be clearly marked as follows:

TENDER 2

Pre-qualification King Talal/Amman Water Supply.

— Pre-qualification data must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon of March 15, 1978. AWSA will consider data postmarked no later than March 1, 1978. A short list of qualified contractors will be prepared by the AWSA, and all contractors will be advised by May 1, 1978 whether and when they will be invited to submit bids.

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE QUEEN ALIA HEART INSTITUTE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN

1. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan intends to invite bids of April/May, 1978 from pre-qualified contractors for the construction of the Queen Alia Heart Institute in Amman, Jordan. Pre-qualification is open to internationally qualified contractors and firms who have a vast experience in building construction, especially hospitals; or internationally qualified contractors in joint venture with Jordanian contractors classified by the Ministry of Public Works as first class building contractors.
2. The Scope of Work includes a modern medical Heart Institute with all electrical and mechanical requirements and fixed equipment of the size of 12,500 square meters of 100 Beds with all associate general services.
3. Contractors interested in bidding for this project may obtain the "PRE-QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE" with the supporting information from the Directorate of the Royal Medical Services, Amman. This form should be completed and submitted in three (3) copies with any other relevant data addressed to:-

The Chairman of the Pre-qualification and Tendering Committee, (Queen Alia Heart Institute),
Directorate, Royal Medical Services,
G. H. O. Jordan Armed Forces,
Amman, Jordan.

This submission should be received not later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, 18th February, 1978.

4. The Government of Jordan will notify Contractors who have been pre-qualified to bid for the work and supply them with information regarding the preparation of bids. Reasons for rejection of applicants for pre-qualification will not be given.

Cordially,
Major General
Chairman of Pre-qualification
and
Tendering Committee,
(Dr. Daoud Hanania)

National News Roundup

King Hussein offers condolences on death of Senator Humphrey

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the United States House of Representatives on the death of Sen. Hubert Humphrey, former U.S. Vice President.

Arbor day celebrated

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — Jordan celebrated Arbor Day on Sunday. The occasion was observed in the grounds of the Polytechnic Institute where His Majesty King Hussein graciously planted a tree, after formally opening the institute. The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared 20,000 dunums of land for afforestation during the current year. Five million saplings have been reared for the purpose of afforestation of which half a million will be presented to other Arab countries. Five million saplings were planted in 1977 compared with only one million in 1952.

New traffic regulations in Irbid

IRBID, Jan. 16 (JNA). — The traffic committee of the Municipality of Irbid today discussed various traffic problems in the Governorate. The Mayor of Irbid announced that the committee adopted new regulations to enforce speed limits according to the classification of roads in the area and to prohibit driving schools from using populated areas to train new drivers.

Jordan International Fair in 1980

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — An ad hoc technical committee has been formed to supervise the Jordan International Fair scheduled to be set up in 1980 on the outskirts of Amman over an area of 487 dunums, an authoritative source at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said today. The source said that the aim of the exhibition is to display Jordanian industries especially those manufacturing for export, and to give friendly countries an opportunity to display their industrial products through the fair.

TV set licences due

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — Finance Ministry officials are collecting fees for TV set licences for 1978. Fees must be paid before March 31, 1978.

Trade with Yugoslavia to be increased

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmeddine Dajani and his accompanying delegation returned home from Yugoslavia yesterday after a two-day visit for trade talks with Yugoslav officials. Dr. Dajani said upon arrival at Amman airport that the two sides signed a new trade agreement to replace the 1954 agreement. The new agreement aims at strengthening commercial exchange and cooperation between the two countries. Yugoslav officials said Yugoslavia will import 250,000 tons of phosphate from Jordan this year, 400,000 in 1979 and 600,000 tons in 1980, he added.

Agriculture minister visits Jordan Valley

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — The Minister of Agriculture Safah Juna'a, accompanied by his under-secretary and a number of officials, today inspected agricultural areas in the Jordan Valley. Farmers and local ministry officials told him of the needs and difficulties of farming there. He is due to visit other parts of the Jordan Valley tomorrow.

Labour minister invited to Sudan

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — The Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni was yesterday invited by the Sudanese minister of Social Affairs to visit Sudan to discuss means of strengthening social cooperation between the two countries and visit a number of social institutions. Meanwhile it was announced today that Mr. Ajlouni will open on Jan. 22 a training course for those working with the deaf. The programme of the 40-day course, organised by the Department of Social Affairs, includes topics on the best ways to rehabilitate and train the deaf on certain skilled and other jobs.

Jordan Atomic Energy Commission 'to be revived'

AMMAN, Jan. 16 (JNA). — The Cabinet has decided to review the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission under chairmanship of the Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani. Members will be Dr. Usama Mudallal, from the Water and Sewerage Authority; Dr. Issa Shahjoe, University of Jordan; Dr. Abdullah Tougan, Yarmouk University; Dr. Majed 'Aun, Natural Resources Authority; Dr. Mahmoud Fayyad, Royal Medical Services; Dr. Tewfik Al Minwer, Ministry of Health, and Dr. Sa'd Shammout, Ministry of Agriculture.

Pacific power balance hangs in balance as Philippines, U.S. renegotiate the bases

The U.S. and the Philippines are now engaged in a political poker game over the matter of U.S. bases in this country and its outcome could affect the power balance in Asia.

At issue are Subic Bay naval base just across Manila Bay in Zambales Province, a repair yard and anchor for the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and the Clark Air Force Base in Central Luzon, whose 13th air force prowls the skies of West Pacific and Southeast Asia.

MANILA (AFP). — Formerly bearing the fear of America's massive military presence in Asia at the height of the Vietnam war, Subic and Clark today with 18,000 U.S. servicemen comprise the twin spearheads of America's strategic thrust in this part of the world.

The gut question in U.S.-Philippines bases renegotiations is no longer how strategic they are but whose interests they serve and safeguard and, therefore, how much rental Washington should pay in terms of economic and military assistance.

Other questions have to do with Philippine criminal jurisdiction over erring U.S. servicemen, operational use of the bases as distinguished from purely administrative control, and bases delimitation. But agreement on these will not be over difficult.

The gut issue cropped up recently when Rep. Lester Wolff, Chairman of the House Committee on Asia-Pacific Affairs, declared at the close of his visit here that Asian countries should share the burden of maintaining security in the region.

In effect, Mr. Wolff clearly implied that since U.S. bases help to bolster Philippine security, both internally and against any dislocation in the power balance in Asia, the Philippines should not demand a jumbo-sized rental payment.

Philippine Defence Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile testily replied that "if the U.S. cannot bear their rightful role in maintaining the balance of power in this part of the world, they have several options to pursue and we in the Philippines will act accordingly."

In effect, Mr. Enrile was saying the Philippine Republic could survive without Subic and Clark, and if Washington can't cough up the rental required, it can, among other things, transfer these bases

elsewhere in Asia, or simply pull out of the region.

This hristling exchange subsided somewhat when after two days of bases talks here between President Ferdinand Marcos and State Under-Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Richard Holbrooke, the announcement was made that the talks were "intensive and fruitful".

What this exactly meant was everybody's guess. But it was clear both sides were still quite a distance away from an agreement.

Just how much rental does the Philippines want? This can be deduced from the fact that President Marcos turned down the bases package offered by former State Secretary Henry Kissinger which involved \$1 billion in economic and military aid over a five-year period.

There have been unofficial American mutterings that if the Philippines should prove intransigent, Washington can always switch the bases to either the Marianas Islands or Guam, about 2,500 kms. to the east.

But this is hardly likely in

the near future. Such a switch would involve colossal outlays of billions of dollars at a time the administration of Jimmy Carter is seeking to cut costs everywhere, including the pull-out of some 30,000-40,000 U.S. troops from South Korea.

Simple closure of the bases without any switch is also unthinkable since this would rupture America's strategic chain in Asia and the Pacific, particularly at a time when this chain is seeking readjustment after the withdrawal from Vietnam and Thailand on the Asian rimland.

The Philippine disadvantage arises from the fact that if the talks drag on and on, the status quo favours Washington at a time the Philippines badly needs the wherewithal to strengthen its economy and successfully prosecute the war against the secessionist rebels in the south.

Secretary Enrile's statement notwithstanding, admits that Subic and Clark do bolster security in this part of the world, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region which is somewhat wary of the communist military colossus in Indo-China.

But the Philippines obviously has the psychological advantage on the bases issue. In the face of all available evidence, Philippine security can theoretically survive without these bases while, either here or elsewhere, they are indispensable to America's strategy in Asia.

And if what separates the two countries from a settlement is by and large an amount in the hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars, added to the Kissinger package, an agreement is possible within this year.

About 125,000 Soviet Jews came to Israel since 1970

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AFP). — About 125,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated to Israel since a wave of Soviet departures began in 1970, Absorption Ministry officials indicated here recently. Most arrived in the early years of the decade.

About 30,000 Soviet Jews emigrated to the U.S. in the same period the officials added. Some of these had specifically asked for a visa to the U.S., and others, in possession of a visa for Israel, made up their minds after arriving in Vienna.

The Niggers, Wogs and Coons Case

LONDON, Jan. 16 (R). — A man was ejected struggling from a London courtroom this week after shouting protests at a judge who provoked a national controversy by ruling that it was not illegal to call coloured immigrants niggers, wogs and coons. These epithets date from the days of the British Empire and figure in stories and nursery rhymes of the period but they are generally considered derogatory in the post-colonial era.

As police and court attendants closed in on him, Mr. Paul Holbrow, Secretary of British Anti-Nazi League, shouted at Judge Neil McKinnon: "Your remarks (are) an affront to the black people of this country." Outside the Old Bailey Courthouse, Mr. Holbrow joined a dozen other members of the league demonstrating in protest against Judge McKinnon, whose summing up a case last Friday led to the acquittal of a man charged with seeking to incite race hatred.

As the storm grew over the judge's remarks, politicians, clergymen and immigrant group demanded his resignation and a transcript of the one-day trial was being sent to the attorney general to see whether the judge erred in his summing up.

But inside the court, at the start of another trial Judge McKinnon apologised to the jury for the interruption and referred to the controversy surrounding the "Niggers, Wogs and Coons" Case. "I do not have a single hostile thought for any member of the black community in this country or anywhere else for that matter," he said.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF CO.	Nominal share value	Volume traded at JD	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5	259	11.300	11.300	11.300	11.300	—	11.100
Jordanian Pipe Manufacturing Co. ...	JD 10	572	11.450	11.450	11.450	—	—	—
Housing Bank ...	JD 1	68	0.950	1.000	0.950	1.000	—	—
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5	2,384	6.950	7.000	6.800	6.950	6.850	7.050
Cement Factory ...	JD 10	2,929	15.100	15.100	15.100	15.100	15.100	—
Arab International Insurance Co. ...	JD 10	230	11.500	11.500	11.500	11.500	—	—
Middle East Insurance Co. ...	JD 10	500	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000	—	—
Jordan Phosphate Mines ...	JD 1	226	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200	—	—

Total value traded Monday, Jan. 16:

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FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 17, 1978

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is advisable that you pay more attention to details of money matters now since there could be tensions that could lead to loss of assets. Strive to have more abundance in the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle all obligations in a most meticulous way. Use good judgment and don't rely so much on your intuition at this time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take steps to improve your appearance. If you go out socially, be sure to use tact and be poised. Use extreme care in motion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Not a good day to see an adviser, so await a better day. Sidestep an opponent who could stand in your way of progress.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you don't know how to gain a personal aim right now, hide your time for now. Take no chances with your reputation.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Handle any public matter in a clever way, otherwise you lose out where it counts the most. Don't confront a higher-up at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't jump into a new project now until you study every aspect of it. Take more interest in philosophical matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study every angle of a new responsibility you have before you handle it. Following the suggestions of mate is fine at this time. Do nothing that

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be exact in carrying through with contracts you have with others. Take health treatments and become a more dynamic person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A co-worker could be difficult at this time, but take it all in stride. Take no risks where your health is concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Morning is not good for recreation you desire, but the evening is just right. Do something thoughtful for the one you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have to be most careful in handling home affairs now, otherwise you could get into serious arguments. Strive for happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Exercise good judgment in dealing with others and get excellent results. Go to the right sources for the information you need.

PEANUTS



ANDY CAPP



MUTT & JEFF



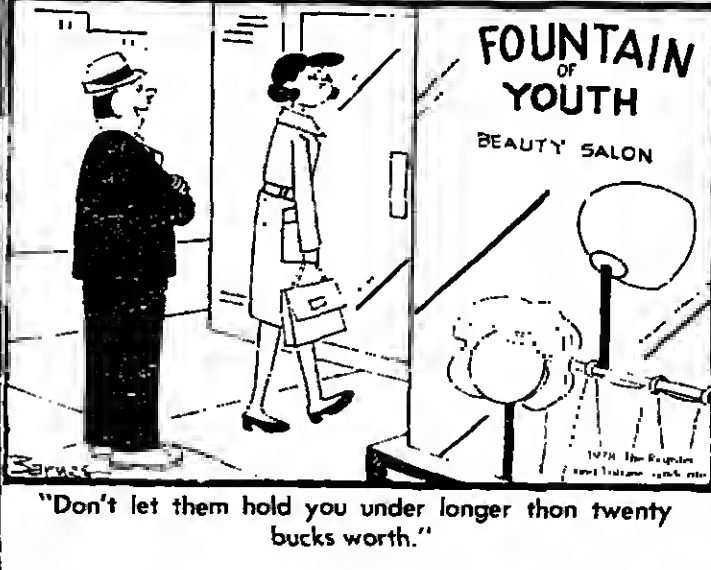
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THE BETTER HALF



GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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ASK OMAR

Q.—Some time ago you answered a question about using an opening bid of two clubs to show specifically a hand of 19-21 points, regardless of distribution. You remarked that you thought that the worst of all worlds. Would you please explain in more detail?—E. Miller, Beverly Hills, Calif.

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—It is simply a matter of weighing possible loss against probable gain. As I see it, the only time you stand to gain from using a 19-21 two club opening are those cases where opener has a maximum and responder has a hand that might pass an opening bid of one in a suit, yet the hands fit well enough to produce a game.

Even then, you can probably cut the number of cases where that might happen by half, to those where opener has a major suit. When opener holds 19-21 points and opener one of a minor, responder will normally strain to keep the bidding open if he holds a major.

As against that, this conventional use of two clubs might actually prevent a good game from being reached, for responder might be reluctant to take any action after a two club opening because of the level of the auction. Consider these hands:

a) ♠x ♥xxx ♦KQ10xx ♣xxxx

b) ♠xxx ♥KJ10xx ♦x ♣Jxxx

a) Assume that partner opens two clubs showing 19-21 points, and over your negative response of two diamonds, he rebids two spades. Can you afford to bid three diamonds and run the risk that partner does not have a fit and may have to retreat to three spades or a not overly robust suit? However, if partner opened one spade, you might try one or trump on the

theory that, no matter what he rebids except for two spades, you are bound to arrive at a better spot.

b) Again partner opens two clubs and, over your negative two diamonds, he rebids three diamonds. Now you feel comfortable about introducing your heart suit? However, should partner open one diamond, you have a very easy one heart response.

I could go on citing examples ad infinitum. I can only speak from my own experience and say that I have seldom missed a game on hands where I hold between 19 and 21 points and partner does not have the values for a response.

Q.—Can you make five diamonds on this hand?

♠ J1098

♥ J432

♦ 883

♣ K52

♠ 1098

♥ 96

♦ KJ76

♣ A43

♥ K

♦ AKJ10752

♣ A4

West led a heart to his partner's ace, and East returned the suit.—P. Merrill, Albany, N.Y.

A.—Yes, if I must, but I would rather be in three no trump. Ruff the second heart with a trump honor, lead the seven of trumps and, if West follows low, finesse the eight. Use the entry to run the jack of spades to West's king.

Assume West shifts to a club. Declarer wins the ace, enters dummy by leading the jack of diamonds to the queen and repeats the spade finesse. East does best, not to cover, but all is well when the queen appears on the next round of spades.

Declarer enters dummy by leading his two of diamonds to the three, and takes a club discard on the thirteenth spade. Contract just made.

JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EECIP

CLOON

STABEK

WALLUF



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Answers tomorrow

Sunday's Jumbles: WHEEL CARGO MALTED SHADOW

Answer: What some stories told by bird-watchers might be—HARD TO "SWALLOW"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:

6:00 Quran

6:15 Quran

6:30 Medical centre

6:45 News in Arabic

6:50 News in Arabic

7:00 Arabic programme

8:30 Arabic series

8:30 Reportage

10:15 Arabic series

Channel 6:

7:30 News in Hebrew

7:45 Piller

8:30 Devotion

8:45 Anna Varnous

10:00 News in English

10:15 The Age of Uncertainty

GMT

06:00 News: 24 Hours

06:30 World Today

06:45 World Today

06:50 News: 24 Hours

07:00 Sarah Ward

07:05 A Way to Be

07:10 News: Reflections

07:15 Short Story

07:20 Composer and Interpreter

07:25 News: First Review

07:30 Financial News

07:35 Alexis Kourer

07:40 Under the Focus

07:45 Discovery

07:50 News: News about Britain

11:00 Am I Top Lead

11:30 Sports International

12:00 Radio Newsworld

12:15 Terry Wogan

12:45 Sports Round-up

13:00 News: 24 Hours

13:30 With Great Pleasure

14:15 Report on Religion

BBC RADIO

14:20 Matthew on Music

15:00 Radio Newsworld

15:15 Outlook

16:00 News: Continuity

16:15 How to be a Muslim

16:45 World Today

17:00 News

17:30 Books and Writers

17:35 Take One

17:40 Sports Round-up

17:45 News: News about Britain

18:00 News: News about Britain

18:15 Radio Newsworld

18:30 The Farming World

19:00 Outlook: News Summary

19:25 Stock Market Report

19:45 Under the Focus

20:00 News: 24 Hours

20:20 The Pleasure of Your Talkabout

21:15 Nature Notebook

22:00 News: World Today

22:20 Financial News

22:30 Book Choice: Reflections

22:45 Sports Round-up

23:00 News: Continuity

23:15 News Ideas, Guitar

23:30 Day of Decision

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:

8:00 Cairo (MEA)

8:40 Bangkok, Bahrain

9:15 Kuwait (KAC)

9:50 Doha, Riyadh (SDI)

9:55 Cairo (CA)

10:10 Jeddah (SDI)

10:15 Istanbul

10:20 Rome, Paris

10:30 Frankfurt

10:40 Athens (MEA)

10:45 Amsterdam

10:50 Cairo

11:00 London

11:05 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam

11:10 Istanbul (SDI)

11:15 Jeddah (SDI)

11:20 Doha, Riyadh (SDI)

11:25 Cairo (CA)

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Italy faces major crisis as Andreotti government resigns

ROME, Jan. 16 (Agencies). — Christian Democratic Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti today resigned after rejecting demands from three parties, including the Communists, for an emergency government.

The fall of Italy's 39th government in 35 years may bring on a political crisis that could take weeks to resolve, according to well-informed sources. They said President Giovanni Leone was almost certain to ask Signor Andreotti to try to form a new government.

The Communists, together with the Socialists and Republicans, withdrew their indirect support for Signor Andreotti's 17-month-old minority administration on Saturday after their demands for inclusion in an

emergency government had been rejected.

Signor Andreotti, a veteran of 30 years in politics, is now expected to try to work out a compromise between the Communist calls for inclusion in the future administration and firm Christian Democratic opposition to such leftwing demands.

But it was not clear whether he could reach an agreement, as he did in August, 1976. At that time, he was able to win the indirect backing of the Communists, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals in forming his minority government.

The importance of the issue at stake contrasted sharply with the low-key adopted by Christian Democrats and Co-

munist in talks on a new government formula.

Both have taken care to avoid threats of a rupture which could precipitate the country into an early legislative election which neither wants at present.

Both are anxious to avoid bringing about a deterioration of the situation already made unstable by rising unemployment and terrorism.

The chances of Communists entering the next Italian government seem slim and they themselves are no longer insisting on it as a price for co-operation. But it is likely the Communist Party will press for a bigger share in decision-making of any future government formed by the Christian Democrats, observers said.



United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim (centre) chats with the President of Cyprus, Spyros Kyprianou (left) and the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş (right) during a meeting he arranged for the two men at U.N. Headquarters in Nicosia on Sunday. (AP wirephoto)

Waldheim optimistic on Cyprus

ATHENS, Jan. 16 (Agencies). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim arrived here from Nicosia today on the final leg of his mission aimed at restarting the stalled inter-communal talks on the Cyprus problem.

Before leaving Cyprus today Dr. Waldheim said a turning point had been reached in attempts to achieve a Cypriot settlement and said there was a "realistic possibility" that inter-communal talks, stalled since last April, would resume in March.

The Greek-Cypriot side had refused to resume the talks unless the other side made "concrete and negotiable" proposals.

Dr. Waldheim told reporters

at Athens Airport: "I have been in Ankara and to Cyprus and I have the impression there is a chance for making progress in the negotiating process."

Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit had told Dr. Waldheim that he wants "to adopt a new approach to the negotiations and to come forward with concrete proposals."

Of his achievement in arranging a meeting in Nicosia on Sunday between President Spyros Kyprianou, leader of the island's Greek-Cypriot majority and Turkish-Cypriot chief Rauf Denktaş, Dr. Waldheim said: "I hope these direct contacts will contribute to a solution of this burning problem."

Mr. Denktaş struck an optimistic note at a dinner he gave for Dr. Waldheim in the island's Turkish-Cypriot sector last night when he said "we have to find ways and means of living together side by side in our zones and yet cooperating for one Cyprus for the good of the whole of Cyprus."

During his two-day stay in Athens, Dr. Waldheim will meet Premier Constantine Karamanlis and President Constantine Tsatsos.

USSR, Ethiopia accused of plans to invade Somalia

MOGADISHU, Jan. 16 (AFP). — Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and its allies are poised to invade Somalia by land, sea and air, Information Minister Abdulkassim Salah Hassan said here today.

He said the Soviet and Cuban defence ministers were secretly in Addis Ababa where the invasion plan was being masterminded.

The Kremlin policy-makers and their Warsaw Pact allies were responsible for coordinating the invasion, he added.

The minister appealed to the world at large, and "especially friendly and peaceful countries to fully support Somalia to quell this sinister invasion plan."

The minister recalled that U.S. President Jimmy Carter had recently called for peace initiatives in the Horn of Africa and had expressed growing concern about the sophisticated weapons and Soviet and Cuban troops being poured in-

to Ethiopia.

These peace calls had been with baseless accusations from Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and its allies, the minister said.

This exposed to the world the pre-planned invasion which "these unholy alliances were intending to carry out against the liberation movement (the pro-Somali liberation fronts fighting in Ethiopia's eastern and southern provinces) and then against Somali, Djibouti and other neighboring countries, he added.

Mr. Salah Hassan said it was clear that the sophisticated weapons, including missiles and jet fighters, poured into Ethiopia by air and sea was "way beyond Addis Ababa's legitimate defence needs. They were destined for the planned invasion," he added.

World News Briefs

More Viet-Cambodian fighting reported

BANGKOK, Jan. 16 (AFP). — Isolated outbreaks of fighting were reported today at several points along the Cambodia-Vietnamese border. An intelligence services report said Krong Pong district in the north of the Parrot's Beak, about 20 km from the border, had been captured by Vietnamese units. Relations apparently had not changed on other fronts. The Vietnamese were said to hold a strip of territory 450 kms. long at 20 kms. wide.

Eritreans deny holding Soviets, Cubans

BEIRUT, Jan. 16 (AFP). — The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) today denied the claims of one of its leaders that it had taken Cuban and Soviet prisoners during clashes in Eritrea. The claim was made yesterday by EPLF Politbureau member Mohammad Said in an interview with the Lebanese daily paper Al Nahar. Today the EPLF had a retrusion published in the paper admitting that it had "no prisoners from these countries." But the front maintained that it had documents in its possession confirming Soviet-Cuban intervention in Eritrea.

18 dead in Japan's weekend earthquake

TOKYO, Jan. 16 (R). — The death toll from an earthquake which rocked a wide area of Japan's Pacific seaboard rose to 18 today with six people still missing and 89 injured. Toxic poisonous sodium cyanide sludge pouring from a collapsed mining dam had polluted the Kano River running through the centre of the quake-stricken Izu Peninsula, police said. A dam collapsed yesterday during after-shocks from Saturday quake. The worst since 1975.

Portuguese opposition may join cabinet

LISBON, Jan. 16 (R). — Portugal's leading opposition party has agreed to help caretaker Prime Minister Mario Soares form a stable government — provided the Communists are excluded. The Social Democrat Party (PSD) announced policy switch after a two-day meeting of its National Committee ended last night. The party had previously maintained ever since Dr. Soares' minority Socialist government fell Dec. 8 on a vote of confidence over its economic policies that its proper role was in opposition.

Iranian confesses to spying for USSR

TEHRAN, Jan. 16 (AFP). — An Iranian civil servant sentenced to death for spying confessed yesterday to providing secret information to the Soviet Union since the end of World War II. The Iranian press reported today. It was the first public reference to the Soviet Union in connection with the case, observers here noted. The reports said Ali Naghi Rabani, 66, in his confession before a military court which turned down appeal against the sentence passed on Dec. 19. The report said Mr. Rabani had provided documents relating to Iran's national security and internal situation to Soviet agents.

Moroccan plane shot down, says Polisario

ALGIERS, Jan. 16 (Agencies). — The Polisario front said yesterday it shot down a Moroccan air force observation plane and captured its two crew after a combined French-Moroccan operation against guerrillas on Thursday.

In a communique issued by the Algerian news agency, the front said the Moroccans called for French air support after 18 of their troops were killed in an ambush near Bir Enzar, in Western Sahara.

It said a French observation aircraft tracked the guerrillas and was joined by French fighter-planes and the Moroccan Broussard spotter plane, which was shot down.

The pilot, Habib Bouksaida, and the observer, Ahmad Illal, were both captured by the Polisario, said, identifying the plane as Number 119.

The communique also reported killing 37 Mauritanian troops in an attack, also on Thursday, on the garrison town of Choum and 36 Moroccans in several attacks the previous day on Moroccan positions in Western Sahara.

The Algerian-backed Polisario front is fighting to take over the former Spanish Sahara, which was ceded to Morocco and Mauritania nearly two years ago.

Heath: Israel must revise tactics

LONDON, Jan. 16 (R). — Mr. Edward Heath, the former British Prime Minister who has recently toured the Middle East, stated yesterday that the Israelis should re-examine their negotiating tactics.

"The announcement made since President Sadat's visit about extending or at least strengthening Jewish settlements in Sinai and on the West Bank have more than irked the Arab negotiators," he said in an article in the Sunday Times.

"They have led many to question the Israelis' integrity. One of those present at the meeting at Ismailia told me he had not realised until then

how little the Israelis understood about the working of the Arab mind."

"The United States and the European governments carry a heavy responsibility at this time. Their leaders should state clearly not only that they strongly support President Sadat's initiative but that this is the best chance we have had for 30 years of ensuring a permanent peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Heath, who met Egyptian and Israeli defence ministers as well as Middle East leaders such as President Sadat and President Hafiz Assad during his tour, said President Sadat believed that success re-

quired a settlement during the next two or three months and that otherwise the momentum would be lost.

"In the event on failure, no one I met has any doubt that the Arab World will become so cynical about both the genuineness of the Israeli desire for a settlement and the willingness of Europe and the United States to support a real attempt to secure this by the Arab leaders that these countries would turn instead to the Soviet Union for supplies and make another military attempt to regain their land from the Israelis," the former British Conservative Party leader wrote.

America says goodbye to Sen. Humphrey

Americans paid their tributes to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey on Sunday at the Rotunda of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., where the senator, who died on Friday night aged 66 after a two-year battle against cancer, lay in state. President Jimmy Carter and ex-Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford led the mourners on Sunday when Mr. Carter delivered the eulogy. Sen. Humphrey's body was flown to St. Paul, Minnesota, on Sunday night where the people of his home state queued through a bitter winter night to pay their last respects. Sen. Humphrey will be buried on Monday, in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN REAL ESTATE ESTABLISHMENT COMPANY Ltd AMMAN — JORDAN

Construction of: COMPREHENSIVE COMMERCIAL CENTER IN AMMAN NOTICE TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS:

- Suitable qualified building Contractors are hereby invited to submit applications for prequalification for the above project.
- The Comprehensive Commercial Center will be located in the city of Amman on a plot lying between the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel and Prince Mohammad Street. The said Center will accommodate stores, shops, garages, apartments and offices to be rented by the owner himself and/or to be sold.
- The Comprehensive Commercial Center will comprise:
 - Block A of seven floors out of which one basement assigned to stores and facilities, three floors assigned to shops and lobbies and three floors assigned to offices.
 - Block B known as "The Tower" of 25 floors out of which one basement assigned to technical facilities and workshops, six floors assigned to a public garage, two floors assigned to social and meeting areas, one floor assigned to a restaurant and hotel.
 - Block C of six floors totally assigned to a public garage.
 - Minor blocks are allotted to a Health Club, water reservoirs, stair and elevator cases etc. The total floor area is 48,000 sq. m.
- The civil engineering works involve mainly: reinforced concrete outstanding structures, masonry, flooring, paving, plastering, wall cladding, painting, doors and windows, glazing, moisture protection, insulation, drainage and sewages and other.
- The mechanical works involve mainly: heating, ventilation, cold and hot water distribution, plumbing, sanitarries, elevators, escalators and other.
- The electrical plants works involve mainly: MV — LV transformation plant, low voltage distribution system, fire and alarm system, lightning system, telephone system and other.
- JREC will select from data submitted a short list of foreign Contractors or joint-ventures between local and foreign contractors which should have demonstrated their own financial suitability, technical reliability, previous satisfactory experience in construction of high-standard toll buildings even abroad. It is emphasized that standards of the reinforced concrete structure required by the design has not been used in Jordan before so a particular skill in this field is to be evidenced in order to be included in the short list. Contractors are also expected to produce certificates of satisfaction and photographs released and signed by their Clients.
- The contract will be on a fixed lump-sum basis, not subject to remeasurement.
- The owner will supply through his Consulting Engineer all the relevant tender documents such as design, specifications and conditions of contract, whereas the bidders are expected to justify their lump-sum offer by filling blank Bill of Quantities forms with relevant quantities and unit prices.
- The prequalified contractors shall nominate mechanical and electrical subcontractors and present their qualifications which shall be approved by the owner.
- Contractors are also expected to perform and submit proper shop-drawings to be approved by the Engineer during the works according to the conditions of contract.
- Interested contractors should apply to:
 - JORDAN REAL ESTATE ESTABLISHMENT COMPANY Ltd
Tel: 41371 — P. O. B. 35001 — AMMAN, JORDAN
— as owner: with copies to: the Consultants of the Owner, namely:
 - G. E. I. — GENERAL ENGINEERING S. r. l
13, Piazza Amerigo Capponi, ROMA, ITALY
tel: 659637 — TELEX 64013 INTERGEI
 - Mohammad Jardaneh engineering office
P. O. B. 9532 — AMMAN, JORDAN
tel: 67167 — TELEX 1437 HANDSA

M) Applications shall be received by each of the above three addresses. Non compliance with this request would automatically disqualify applicants.

N) Prequalification forms can be obtained free of charge from either of the three above addresses to be completed and submitted not later than Feb. 25, 1978.